

American Councils for International Education

TRADITION AND MODERNITY IN TAIWAN

Tamkang University

Course Title	Cross-Strait Relations and U.S.-China-Taiwan Relations
Instructor	Ying-Yu Lin
Class Periods	September to December 2026. In total 15 weeks.
Objectives	
By the end of the course, students will be able to: 1. Understand the historical context - Gain knowledge of the major stages and policy shifts in cross-strait relations from the postwar period to the present. 2. Grasp strategic frameworks - Recognize the dynamics of the U.S.–China–Taiwan strategic triangle and analyze its impact on cross-strait relations. 3. Develop multi-dimensional analytical skills - Systematically examine cross-strait interactions through the lenses of diplomacy, economics, society, and military affairs. 4. Compare soft and hard power - Assess the differences between Taiwan and China in terms of international soft power (culture, media, education, sports, technology, and discourse power) and military capabilities. 5. Enhance international perspectives - Connect cross-strait issues with regional and global international relations, and understand their broader strategic and diplomatic implications.	
Course Description	
This course aims to help students understand the evolution of cross-strait relations as well as the exchanges and interactions between the two sides. It begins with an examination of Taiwan's political history, focusing on how the policies of different Taiwanese governments toward China have changed over time. It then analyzes cross-strait relations from the perspective of the U.S.–China–Taiwan strategic triangle, exploring their interconnectedness with international relations. Subsequently, the course will examine cross-strait relations through the lenses of diplomacy, economics, society, and military affairs. The course not only emphasizes depth along the timeline but also breadth in thematic perspectives. By the end, students are expected to gain a more comprehensive understanding of cross-strait interactions.	
Textbooks and Teaching Materials	
Self-made teaching materials	
Requirements and Grades	
◆ Attendance : 20 % ◆ Mark of Usual : 30 % ◆ Midterm Exam : 20% ◆ Final Exam : 30 % ◆ Other : %	
Recommended Readings:	

1. Presidential Office. Full Text of President Tsai's 2022 New Year Day's Address: Presidential Office, 2022.
2. Presidential Office. Full Text of President Lai's 2024 Inauguration Address: Presidential Office, 2024
3. Chao Chun Shan, (2019) *Cross-Strait Relations and ROC's Mainland China Policies*

Course Outline		
	Subject/ Topics	Discription
Week 1	Introduction	1. Overview of course structure, objectives, and expectations. 2. Brief review of Taiwan's modern political history and key milestones. 3. Discussion: What does "Cross-Strait Relations" mean in today's context?
Week 2	Cross-Strait Relations during the Kuomintang Administration1949-1990 ※Three-Noes Policy	1. Examine the formation of the "Three-Noes Policy" and its political rationale. 2. Analyze early cross-strait hostility and separation. 3. Discussion: How did the Cold War shape Taiwan–China interactions?
Week 3	Cross-Strait Relations during the Kuomintang Administration1900-2000 ※Third Taiwan Strait Crisis	1. Study the policy shift toward "pragmatic diplomacy" and limited exchanges. 2. Explore the impact of the 1995–1996 Taiwan Strait Crisis. 3. Discussion: What changed in Beijing and Taipei's perceptions during this period?
Week 4	Cross-Strait Relations during the Democratic Progressive Party Administration (2000-2008,2016-2024)	1. Compare the DPP's cross-strait policies across two different eras. 2. Examine political tensions and communication mechanisms. 3. Discussion: How have domestic politics influenced Taiwan's policy toward China?
Week 5	The Role and Influence of the United States in Cross-Strait Relations	1. Review the evolution of U.S. policy toward Taiwan and China. 2. Examine key legislations such as the Taiwan Relations Act. 3. Discussion: How does U.S. strategic ambiguity affect cross-strait stability?
Week 6	The One China Principle of Mainland China. ※Cross-Strait Diplomatic Competition and International Space	1. Explore China's interpretation of the One China Principle. 2. Assess how this principle shapes diplomatic competition and Taiwan's international space. 3. Discussion: What are the implications for Taiwan's participation in global organizations?
Week 7	The One China Policy of the US.	1. Clarify the difference between the U.S. "One China Policy" and China's "One China Principle." 2. Examine official U.S. statements and their historical development. 3. Discussion: How do U.S. policies balance strategic interests and democratic values?
Week 8	Mid-term Reflection	
Week 9	Cross-Strait Economic and Trade Interactions and Taiwanese Business Investment(Market/Factory,supply/demand)	1. Study the growth of trade, investment, and supply chain interdependence. 2. Analyze the role of Taiwanese businesses in Mainland China. 3. Discussion: How do economic ties affect political leverage across the Strait?

Week 10	Cross-Strait Soft Power Comparison(Culture, Media, Education, Sports, Technological Image, International Discourse Power)	1. Compare Taiwan and China's cultural, educational, and technological influence. 2. Explore media representation and international discourse power. 3. Discussion: Can Taiwan's soft power offset its lack of military strength?
Week 11	Cross-Strait Social and Cultural Exchanges(Religious Exchanges and Marriage Relationships)	1. Examine people-to-people connections, tourism, and academic exchanges. 2. Discuss cross-strait marriages and social integration challenges. 3. Reflection: How do cultural similarities both connect and divide the two sides?
Week 12	China's Military Capabilities and the Threat to Taiwan(People's Liberation Army of China)	1. Analyze the modernization of the People's Liberation Army (PLA). 2. Explore military scenarios and deterrence strategies. 3. Discussion: How can Taiwan enhance its defense through asymmetric strategies?
Week 13	The Impact of HK–China Interactions on Taiwan(One Country Two System)	1. Review Hong Kong's political developments and the "One Country, Two Systems" model. 2. Discuss Taiwan's response and public opinion toward Hong Kong events. 3. Reflection: What lessons has Taiwan learned from Hong Kong's experience?
Week 14	Cross-Strait Relations and Indo-Pacific Security	1. Examine the strategic importance of the Taiwan Strait in regional security. 2. Discuss U.S. alliances and the role of Japan, ASEAN, and Australia. 3. Debate: Is Taiwan a key player or a flashpoint in Indo-Pacific geopolitics?
Week 15	Final Exam	